

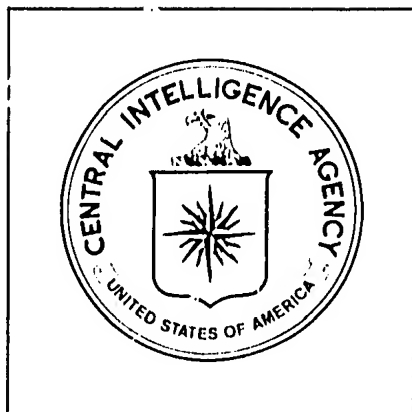
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West. Europe, [REDACTED] Int. Organizations

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S/NFD/NDA/CD 1 of 1
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STAFF NOTES:

Western Europe

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WESTERN EUROPE — [REDACTED] — INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

CONTENTS

Portuguese Expect Violence, Coup Plot Rumors Reported	1-2
Socialist International to Make Second Middle East Trip Next Month	3
Concern about Human Rights in Chile	4
25X6 [REDACTED]	5

January 27, 1975

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Phone: 143-5135

Portuguese Expect Violence, Coup Plot Rumors
Reported

Politically motivated street violence occurred in Portugal over the weekend, and more is expected this week. Rumors of coup plotting, meanwhile, continue to circulate.

The forced cancellation of the first congress of the Social Democratic Center Party by radical left-wing groups bodes ill for free and orderly elections this spring. Party delegates and observers from several European parties were trapped overnight inside the congress hall in Oporto, Portugal's second largest city. Police kept demonstrators from breaking in, but the crowd could not be dispersed until security forces arrived from Lisbon early yesterday.

Leaders of the Social Democratic Center, dubbed "fascist" by the left, had anticipated violence; groups of extreme leftists had ransacked their headquarters and broken up a party youth rally late last year, and the far left had said it would prevent the congress from taking place.

Extremist groups calling for the dissolution of the Social Democratic Center held another demonstration in Oporto yesterday with security forces present. Democratic Center leaders reportedly are considering disbanding; if they do, no right-of-center party worth mentioning will participate in the constituent assembly elections.

The Communists, meanwhile, have announced they will hold a demonstration in Lisbon on Friday to compete with one already scheduled by the Socialists. The Socialists have called their demonstration to show continuing opposition to the unitary labor law approved by the cabinet last week. The Communists, who reportedly believe the Socialist rally will be successful, hope to draw off some of its support. Tensions are rising, and a clash between the two groups could become serious.

January 27, 1975

-1-

SECRET

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Coup Rumors

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[REDACTED] a coup is being planned by left-wing members of the Armed Forces Movement in cooperation with the Communist party. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the coup is scheduled for tomorrow or Wednesday. The Communists may believe their fortunes have peaked with their labor law victory and may therefore decide to take steps to preclude a moderate reaction against them. Their counter-demonstration could be a cover for a coup attempt.

Radical officers also might try a coup because of disagreements among the military over the labor law. In this case, the Communists might play only a supporting role.

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[REDACTED] in recent months that former president Spinoza has been planning some sort of action to return to power. Rightists reportedly are circulating stories of leftist plots, perhaps to provide an excuse for taking action themselves. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/Controlled Dissem)

January 27, 1975

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Phone: 143-5205

Socialist International to Make Second Middle
East Trip Next Month

The second Socialist International fact-finding mission to the Middle East is to visit Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya February 8-14. Austrian Chancellor and Socialist Party Chairman Bruno Kreisky will lead the delegation, which will include Robert Pontillon, International Secretary of the French Socialist Party, Ron Hayward of the British Labor Party, representatives of the Swedish, West German, and Norwegian parties and Socialist International Secretary-General Hans Janitschek.

The delegation had originally planned to visit Saudi Arabia as well but the Saudis made it clear to Kreisky in early January that they were more interested in receiving him in his role as Austrian Chancellor than as head of a Socialist International mission.

The group's first formal visit to the Arab world occurred last March as a result of the Socialist International's decision in 1973 that it could no longer support only Israel. That delegation, which Kreisky also led, went to Syria, Egypt, and Israel. The Egyptians and Syrians expressed predictable interest in more trade but were not interested in possible links between the Socialist International and their own so-called Socialist parties.

Kreisky has stressed that the delegation will not interfere with peace-making efforts in the area. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/No Dissem Abroad/Controlled Dissem/Background Use Only)

January 27, 1975

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Phone: 143-5295

Concern about Human Rights in Chile

The UN Human Rights Commission--which opens its 31st session next week in Geneva--will spend a great deal of time discussing the human rights situation in Chile. Chile has been a standing item on the Commission's agenda since the September 1973 coup. Moreover, in a resolution passed during the recent UN session, the General Assembly requested the Human Rights Commission to continue to study the situation. In addition to the Chilean situation, the meeting will also discuss a report prepared last year by a subgroup of the Commission, which levied accusations--ranging from widespread torture in Brazil to political executions in Uganda--at five countries, including Chile.

A number of West European countries--joined by the US--have already attempted to head off an expected violent attack on Chile by the Soviets and their allies by drawing up a resolution that they hope will command broad support. While the wording of the resolution has not yet been worked out, the Europeans hope to produce compromise language that would continue the Commission's involvement by sending a fact-finding group to Chile or by considering the reports of already concluded investigations by other groups, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The major objective of the West Europeans in presenting a balanced solution is to gain Chile's acceptance of the proposal. Earlier this month Chilean President Pinochet refused to allow two representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to visit Chile on a similar mission, and the Europeans do not want their resolution to result in a similar Chilean response. (Confidential)

January 27, 1975

-4-

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